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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12
AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCE-00 COME-00 /128 W
----------041590 182054Z /46
R 181001Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6967
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0280

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, GW, ET
SUBJ: RECENT ETHIOPIAN ACTIONS AGAINST FRG

REF: ADDIS ABABA 146, ADDIS ABABA 103

SUMMARY: EPMG CLOSURE OF GERMAN SCHOOL AND FRG DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE HAS CAUSED FRG TO CANCEL PROPOSED VISIT TO ETHIOPIA OF AID DELEGATION FROM MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. GERMAN EMBASSY SEES SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN HAND BEHIND BOTH ACTIONS, ALTHOUGH IT HAS ALSO BEEN TOLD ETHIOPIANS SUSPECT THAT GERMAN ARMS BEING SENT TO SOMALIA.
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SINCE FRG HAD HERETOFORE ENJOYED ONE OF BEST BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH ETHIOPIA AMONG WESTERN COUNTRIES, EPMG ACTIONS COULD PRESAGE GENERAL COOLING OF TIES WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES AS WELL. END SUMMARY.

1. DESPITE LAST-MINUTE DEMARCHE BY GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO FONMIN FELLEKE, EPMG DECISION TO TAKE OVER AND

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CLOSE GERMAN SCHOOL PROVED FINAL. MINED HAS ADVISED
PARENTS OF ETHIOPIAN AND 3RD COUNTRY PUPILS TO
SEEK OTHER SCHOOLS FOR THEIR CHILDREN. GERMAN SCHOOL
PREMISES WILL BE USED FOR SOME OTHER, AS YET UNDETER-
MINED, PURPOSE, POSSIBLY TO HOUSE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL
AT ALEMAYEHU, WHOSE OPERATIONS HAS BEEN BEEN ADVERSELY
AFFECTED BY OGADEN WAR. GERMAN EMBASSY PLANS TO
FINISH OUT SCHOOL YEAR FOR GERMAN AND 3RD COUNTRY
PUPILS BY CONDUCTING CLASSES ON EMBASSY COMPOUND, PRO-
VIDED EPMG DOES NOT REVOKE WORK PERMITS FOR TEACHERS
UNDER CONTRACT.

2. GERMAN EMBASSY CONSIDERS OFFICIAL REASON FOR
CLOSURE OF DAO OFFICE -- "LIMITED NATURE OF FRG-
ETHIOPIAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS DID NOT WARRANT
ATTACHE OFFICE" -- SHEER PRETEXT FOR DECISION BASED EN-
TIRELY ON OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. DAO VON MUENCHOW AS
TOLD PRIVATELY BY ETHIOPIAN CONTACT THAT EPMG HAD
REASON TO BELIEVE THAT FRG-ORIGIN ARMS WERE BEING
SHIPPED TO SOMALIA FROM MID-EAST COUNTRIES.
GERMANS ARE ALSO AWARE OF RECENT AP ARTICLE CITING US
GOVT SOURCES TO EFFECT THAT IRAN EXPECTED TO
SHIP LARGE QUANTITIES OF GERMAN "G-THREE" RIFLES TO
ERITREANS. OTHER DIPLOMATS ARE SPECULATING THAT SIAD
BARRE'S MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AT ASWAN
FIGURES INTO EPMG DECISION IN SOME WAY.
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3. GERMAN EMBASSY IS FURTHER CONVINCED THAT DECI-
SIONS ON BOTH SCHOOL AND DAO WERE STRONGLY INFLUENCED,
IF NOT ACTUALLY DICTATED, BY SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS.
THEY SPEAK OF REVERSE HALLSTEIN DOCTRINE IN PROGRESS,
I.E., THAT AS EPMG RELATIONS WITH GDR HAVE IMPROVED,
LATTER HAS LAUNCHED EFFORT TO LOOSEN AND CAST DOUBT
ON EPMG TIES WITH FRG.

4. FRG ECON COUNSELOR CITED NUMEROUS RECENT INSTANCES
IN TRADE FIELD, FOR WHICH HE CLAIMED TO HAVE
EVIDENCE, OF EPMG ORDERS ORIGINALLY PLACED WITH FRG
OR OTHER WESTERN FIRMS, ONLY TO BE RESCINDED AT LAST
MINUTE BY DIRG, WITH INSTRUCTIONS INSTEAD TO BUY
GDR PRODUCTS. HE CLAIMED THAT NO AMOUNT OF RATIONAL
ARGUMENT FROM TECHNOCRATS WITHIN ETHIOPIAN MINISTRIES
ABOUT POORER QUALITY OF EAST GERMAN GOODS, UNFAVORABLE
TERMS OF TRADE, ETC., SERVED TO OVERRIDE DIRG'S BASIC
DICTUM TO "BUY SOCIALIST." AS PART OF CHAIN REACTION,
WESTERN FIRMS, ONCE STUNG IN ABOVE MANNER, FREQUENTLY
DEMANDED GUARANTEES OR HIGHER DOWN PAYMENTS FROM
ETHIOPIA FOR FUTURE ORDERS, MAKING THEIR BIDS LESS

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ATTRACTIVE AND MAKING IT EASIER FOR IDEOLOGUES TO JUSTIFY DOING BUSINESS WITH EAST.

5. FOLLOWING SAME LOGIC, FRG EMBASSY SEES ACTIONS AGAINST SCHOOL AND DAO AS PART OF CONCERTED WARSAW PACT SCHEME TO EXACERBATE FRINDLY WESTERN COUNTRIES TO POINT WHERE THOSE COUNTRIES IN TURN WILL TAKE RETALIATORY ACTIONS, THEREBY WEAKENING FURTHER ETHIOPIA'S TIES TO WEST AND PUSHIG HER MORE IRREVO-CABLY INTO ARMS OF SOVIETS. IN FRG CASE, THIS MAY ALREADY BE HAPPENING. FOLLOWING ENCOURAGING OCTOBER VISIT TO ADDIS BY FONOFF PLANNING STAFF CHIEF KINKEL, DECISION HAD BEEN MADE IN BONN TO SEND HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL FROM MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION TO
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EXAMINE POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER FRG ENGAGEMENT IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FIELD. VISIT, ORIGINALLY SCHE-DULED FOR SECOND HALF JANUARY BY ONE MINISTERIALDIREK-TOR SCHMIDT, HAS NOW BEEN CANCELLED, AND FRG ENTHUSIASM FOR ANY BOLD NEW INITIATIVES APPEARS TO HAVE SOURED.
MATHERON

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